

CCC News Release

California Conservation Corps

CCC Inland Empire Recruitment Office
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FIREFIGHTERS WANTED... **APPLY NOW FOR CCC FIRE CREW POSITIONS**

It may be difficult to think about fire season in the wake of winter storms, but the California Conservation Corps is seeking applicants now for its Inland Empire fire crew under the direction of the U.S. Forest Service.

The Corps plans to hire 25 young men and women by February 4. They will be trained and certified by the U.S. Forest Service for firefighting work in the year ahead. This is the only CCC crew of its kind in Southern California.

CCC Inland Empire Recruiter Zoraya Van Buren said the Corps' fire crew offers area young people entry to firefighting jobs.

"Here's a great chance to get some practical experience which can lead to a career. Last year we had three corpsmembers hired into U.S. Forest Service positions," she said. "Crew members learn to work together as a cohesive team and well as to push themselves to their own limits when responding to fires."

Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 25 to join the Corps. Following a one-week CCC orientation, they will have two weeks of U.S. Forest service instruction, followed by a physical agility test. Those who sign up for the CCC by February 4 can be a part of the program by February 11.

Corpsmembers on the fire crew will report to work each day at the CCC's Inland

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Empire Center on the grounds of Patton State Hospital and may be dispatched as needed during fire season. Last year's fire crew responded to numerous fires, including the Bridge Fire in the San Bernardino Mountains. In 2003, the fire crew provided many hours of assistance on the Old Fire.

The California Conservation Corps is a workforce development program hiring young people for a year of service to the state. They devote a year to environmental conservation work and emergency response. For details on joining the Inland Empire fire crew, or the CCC in general, contact Van Buren at **(909) 867-0767** or visit the Corps' Web site: **www.ccc.ca.gov**.

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